THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway has formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company to set up joint venture captive power plant with NTPC. The 1000 MW power plant will be established at Nabinagar in Bihar. In addition, as per announcement in Railway budget 2009-10, Indian Railways propose to set up another 1000 MW power plant at Adra to avail traction supply at economical tariff.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The fuel linkage will be finalized at an appropriate time.

Joint venture with NTPC for setting up power plants

3154. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose a joint venture with NTPC for setting up the power plants for its operational usage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways would be able to meet its present and prospective demand of electricity through such captive facilities;

(d) whether Railways also plan to trade the surplus power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has already formed Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited – Joint Venture with NTPC for setting up of Joint Venture Captive Power Plant of 1000 MW Capacity at Nabinagar Bihar to meet a part of its power requirement. This plant will feed 164 traction sub-stations located in Eastern and Western region of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

3155. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Government of India for making adequate budgetary provision for conversion/upgradation of broad gauge in respect of certain lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary provision for each line approved for conversion/upgradation; and

(d) by when the work relating to conversion/upgradation would likely be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Minister of Revenue, Disaster Management, Road and Building, Capital Project, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat has sent a letter in February, 2008 requesting to provide adequate fund to ongoing projects including gauge conversion.

(c) The detail of funds allocated for various ongoing projects is available in the Railway Budget Documents 2009-10.

(d) Time frame for completion of the ongoing projects will depend on availability of resources.

Rail link between Jowai and Silchar

3156. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Jowai in Meghalaya and Silchar in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for new line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been completed recently. The alignment of this surveyed new line passes close to Jowai. The cost of this 437 Km. long new line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore.

Rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat

3157. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail link between Shillong and Byrnihat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The survey for construction of new line from Byrnihat to Shillong has been completed in December, 2008. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 108.40 Km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 4083.02 crore. The report is to be examined in the Ministry for further action.

Appointment to Grade 'D' posts in Railways

3158. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the mode of appointment to grade 'D' posts in the Railways on regular and daily wage basis;